

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AND ATKA-AMLIA ISLANDS AREAS
SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN, 1998

By

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Regional Information Report¹ No. 4K98-10

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Commercial Fisheries Management and Development Division
211 Mission Road
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

March 1998

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ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AREA (Excluding Atka/Amlija Island Area)

The Aleutian Islands Area includes all waters of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands west of Cape Sarichef Light and west of a line extending from Scotch Cap through the easternmost tip of Ugamak Island to 172°50' W. long. (Sequam Pass) and all waters of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands west of 175°23' W. long. (Atka Pass) (Figure 1).

Seining is the only legal method to harvest salmon in the Aleutian Islands Area.

The 1998 pink salmon harvest projection for the Unalaska District is 500,000 fish. Unalaska is the only district in the Aleutian Islands Management Area which has produced a commercial harvest in the last 30 years. There are small local sockeye salmon runs in the Unalaska District. However, due to the remoteness and run size, the sockeye salmon harvest (if any) is anticipated to be small.

The Kashega Bay Section (Spray Cape to Konets Head) only, will be open to commercial salmon fishing from 6:00 a.m. Monday to 6:00 p.m. Friday each week from June 1 through July 18, to allow fishermen the opportunity to harvest local sockeye salmon.

The entire Aleutian Islands Area will open to commercial salmon fishing from 12:01 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. during Friday July 10 and from 6:00 a.m. Monday July 13 until 6:00 p.m. Friday July 17 as established in the regulation book. After July 18, fishing periods will be established by emergency order.

Fishermen are reminded that in January 1998, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) expanded the waters closed to commercial salmon fishing in the two following locations in the Unalaska District:

- (1) Iliuliuk Harbor vicinity located at the City of Unalaska:

The southwest closed waters line, formerly at the Unalaska-Dutch Harbor bridge, is moved approximately .17 nautical mile to a line from 53°52.28' N. lat., 166°32.68' W. long., south of Agnes Beach, to a point at 53°52.28' N. lat., 166°33.17' W. long., on Amaknak Island (Figure 2).

- (2) Humpback Bay, located within Makushin Bay:

All waters of Humpback Bay enclosed by a line from the western tip of Cathedral Point to 53°45.23' N. lat., 166°53.63' W. long. (Figure 3).

The Humpback Bay closed waters will be reduced by emergency order when a substantial number of pink salmon are observed in the streams by the department.

ATKA-AMLIA AREA

The BOF, during its November 1991 meeting, created an experimental open to entry set gillnet salmon fishery around Atka and Amlia Islands. The Atka-Amlia Islands Management Area (Area F) is bounded by 172°50' W. long (Sequam Pass) on the east and 175°23' W. long. (Atka Pass) on the west (Figures 1 and 4). In addition to set gillnet gear, fishermen with CFEC Area M purse seine permits may seine for salmon in the Atka-Amlia Islands Area.

Each Area F set gillnet permit holder and each Area M seine permit holder intending to fish for salmon in the Atka-Amlia Islands Area must register and register each vessel they will operate. Vessels acting as salmon tenders, fish buyers and processors, are also required to register prior to operating in the Atka/Amlia Area. Registration can be completed by contacting an ADF&G office in Cold Bay, Sand Point, Dutch Harbor or other location designated by the department, at least 48 hours prior to commercial fishing for salmon in the Atka-Amlia Islands Area. The addresses and phone numbers for the Cold Bay, Dutch Harbor, and Sand Point ADF&G offices are as follows:

ADF&G
P.O. Box 50
Cold Bay, AK 99571
Phone: 532-2419
Fax: 532-2470

ADF&G
PO. Box 920587
Dutch Harbor, AK 99692
Phone: 581-1219
Fax: 581-1572

ADF&G
P.O. Box 129
Sand Point, AK 99661
Phone: 383-2066
Fax: 383-2606

The department has made no projection as to the size of 1998 Atka-Amlia Islands pink salmon run. However, even numbered years generally produce larger pink salmon runs than odd numbered years in the Atka-Amlia Islands Area. Consequently, it is possible that the 1998 run will be strong.

The fishing season is from August 1 through August 31. Fishing periods will be from 6:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. during Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays as listed in the regulation book under 5 AAC 11.321. All waters within 500 yards of the mouth of all salmon streams are closed to commercial salmon fishing. Fishing time and closed waters may be adjusted inseason based on catch and escapement information.

Purse seine gear specifications are the same in the Atka-Amlia Islands Area as those specified for the Aleutian Islands Area. Purse seines and hand purse seines may not be less than 100 fathoms nor more than 250 fathoms in length. No lead may be less than 25 fathoms nor more than 150 fathoms in length.

Set gillnet specifications are as follows:

1. Each CFEC permit holder may operate no more than one set gillnet of which the length cannot exceed 100 fathoms (not including the lead, see 5. below).

2. Set gillnets must be operated in substantially a straight line except that no more than 25 fathoms of the offshore end of a set gillnet may be used as a hook. A hook may be used in any configuration.
3. The mesh size of set gillnets shall not exceed five inches.
4. The maximum depth of set gillnets shall not exceed 90 meshes.
5. Twenty-five fathoms of seine webbing may be used as a lead, and may be attached only to the shoreward end of a set gillnet; the shoreward end of the lead or gillnet must be attached to the beach above high tide.
6. During hours of darkness, each set gillnet must be marked with at least one red light on the seaward end of the net.
7. No vessel used for set gillnet fishing may exceed 29 feet in overall length.
8. Salmon caught for commercial fishing bait must be taken following the specifications listed above. Salmon taken under subsistence regulations may not be used as bait for commercial fishing purposes (5 AAC 01.010 m).

Unless there is an Alaska Department of Fish and Game representative at Atka, all catch reports shall be phoned or faxed to the ADF&G office in Cold Bay during the morning following a fishing period. The catch report shall list the number of fish and pounds purchased by species and the number of fishermen making deliveries. Fishermen who are not selling their fish, but are preserving them for bait will also be required to phone or fax a catch report to the Cold Bay office during the morning following a fishing period.

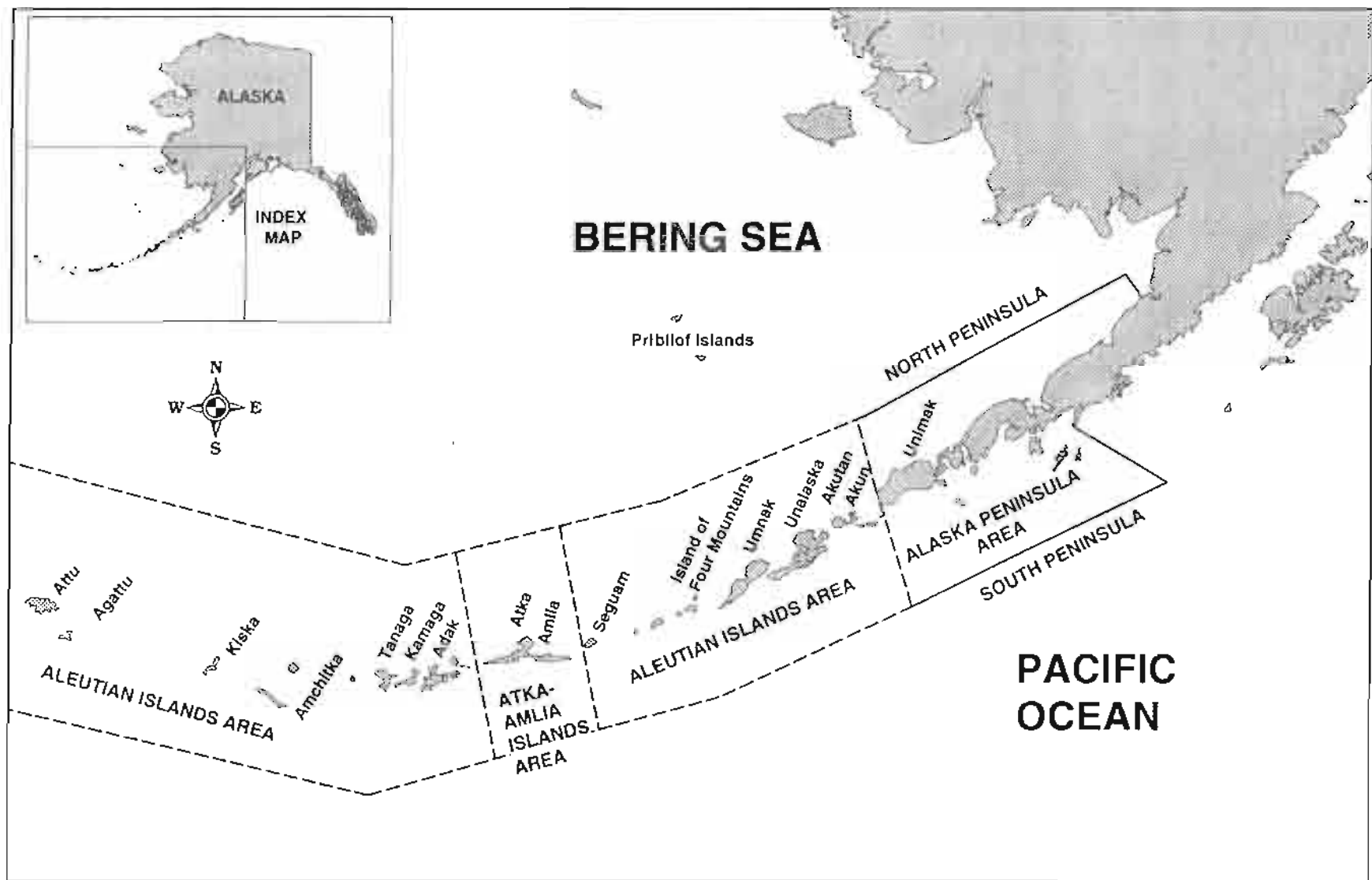


Figure 1. Map of the Aleutian Islands, Atka-Amlia Islands, and Alaska Peninsula Areas.

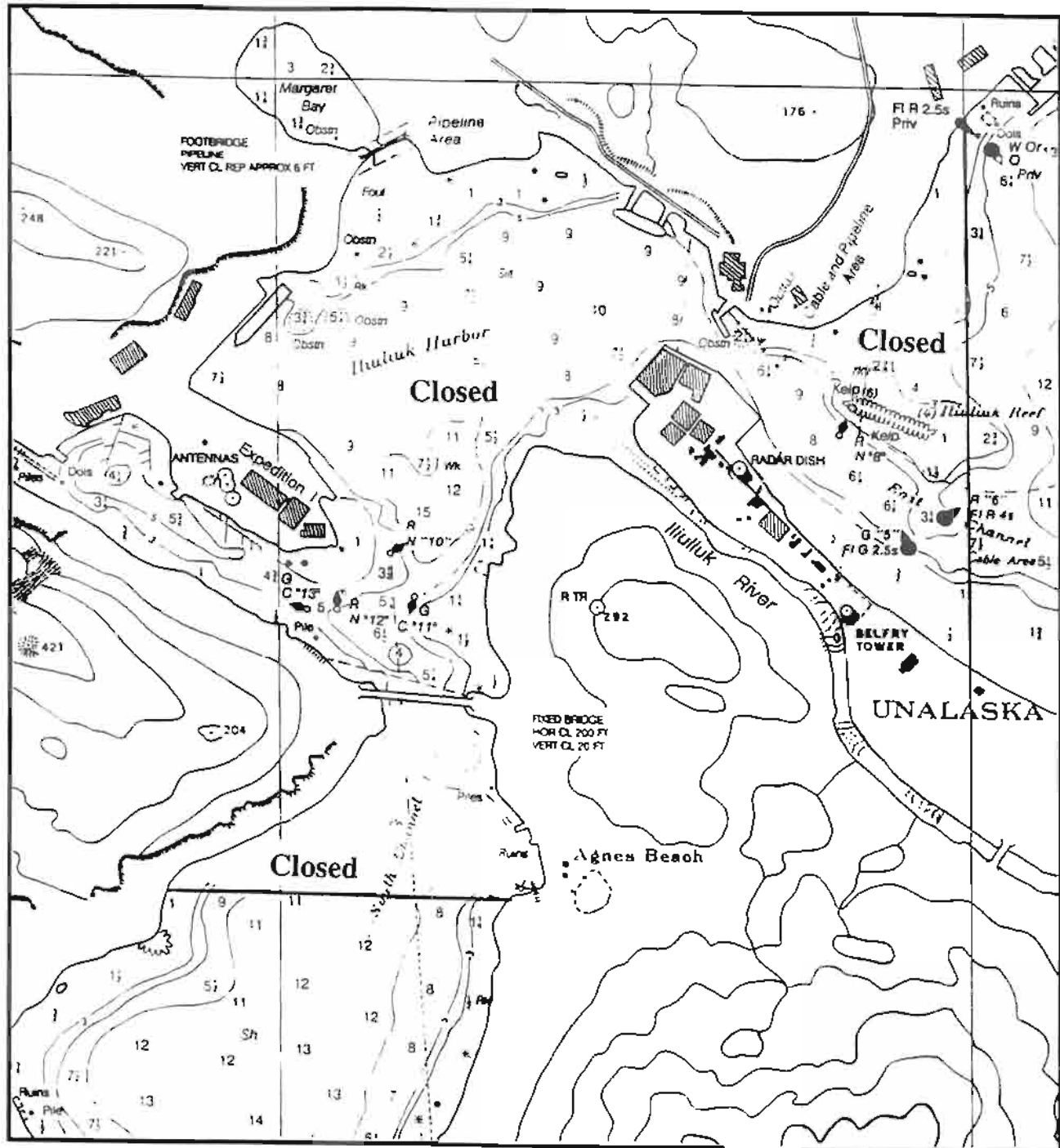


Figure 2. Map of waters closed to commercial salmon fishing in Iliuliuk Harbor vicinity.

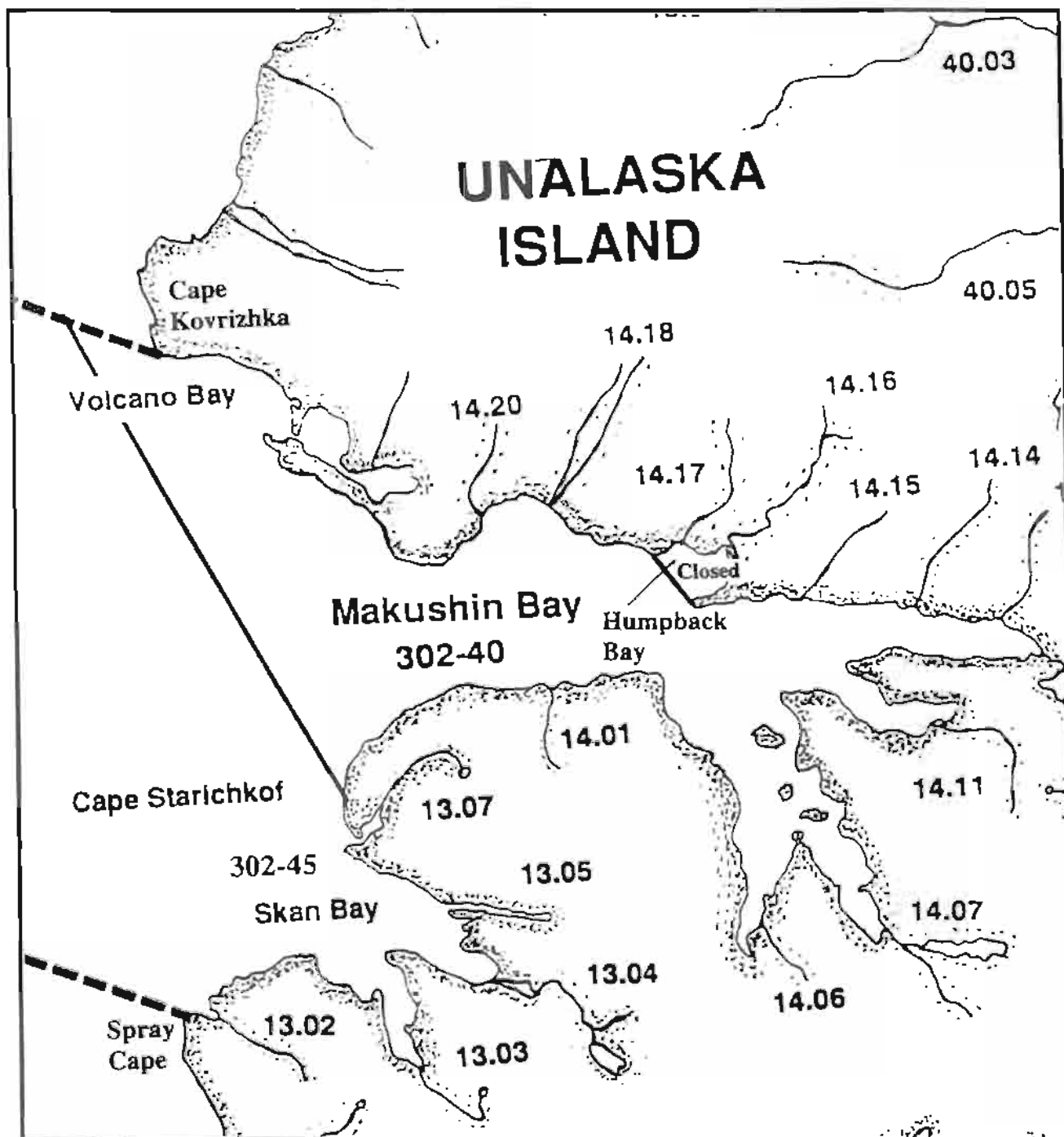


Figure 3. Map of waters closed to commercial salmon fishing at Humpback Bay, within Makushin Bay.

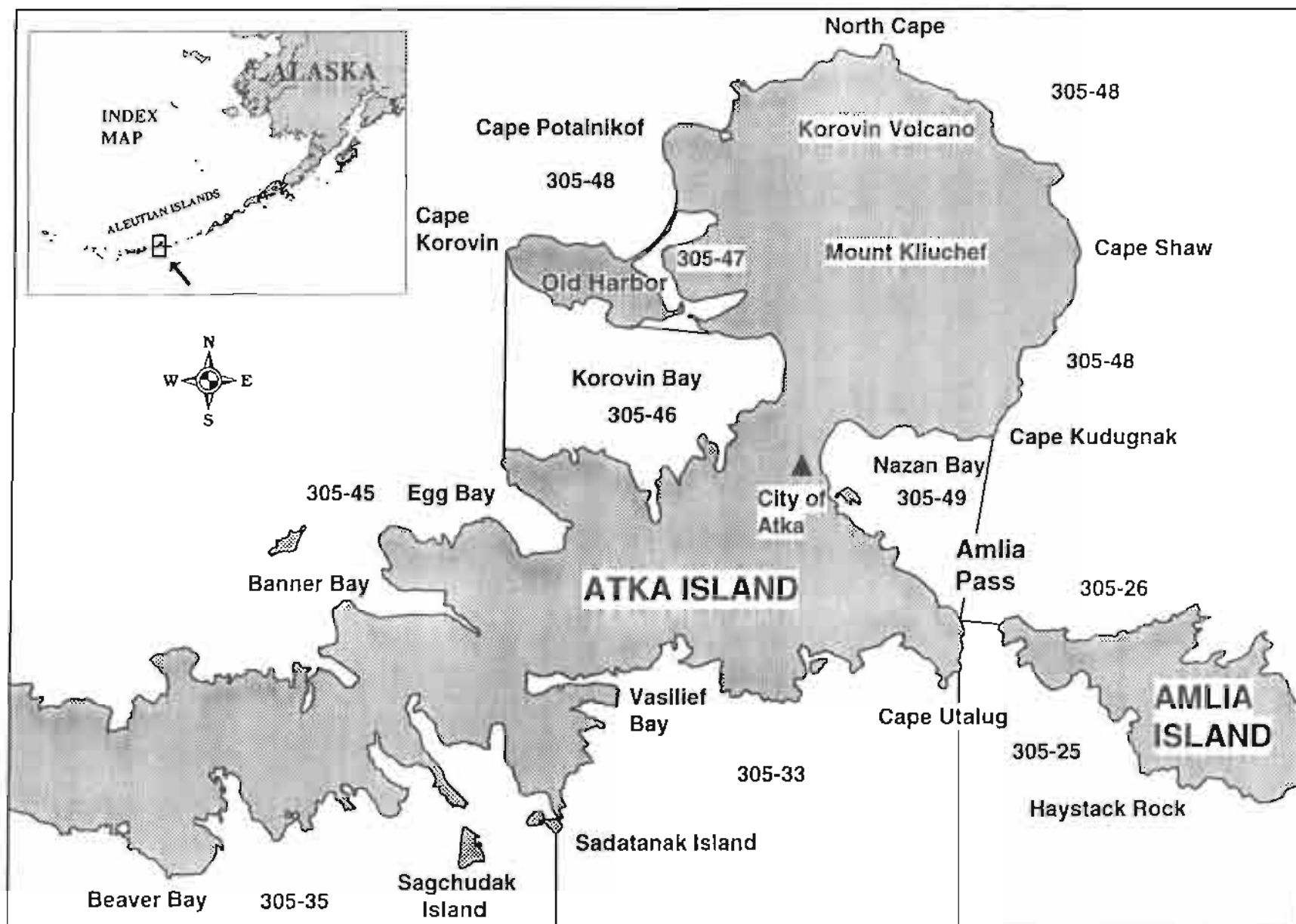


Figure 4. Map of Atka Island with Korovin Bay, Old Harbor, and Nazan Bay fishing areas defined.

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